



Atty. Dkt. No. 078883-0165
Appln. No. 10/626,583

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert on the first line of the specification:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 09/869,155, filed October 1, 2001, now abandoned, which is a National Stage of International Patent Application No. PCT/IB99/02071, filed December 17, 1999, which was published in English.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 7, line with the following rewritten paragraph:

Preferably, sequence comparisons are conducted using the simple BLAST search algorithm provided at ~~http://~~www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST using the default parameters.